

DANVILLE SCHOOL BOARD: APPROVED MINUTES  
BUILDING COMMITTEE MEETING 5/17/2023

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**Danville School Building Committee Meeting**  
**Wednesday, May 17, 2023, 6:00pm**  
**Room 501 at Danville School & Zoom Teleconference**  
**Video Recordings: [Part 1](#) & [Part 2](#)**

**School Directors Present:** Dave Towle, Melissa Conly, Tim Sanborn, Molly Gleason

**Planned Absences:** Clayton Cargill

**School Administrators & Staff Present:** Elementary Principal Sarah Welch (via Zoom),  
Facilities Director Shawn McNamara

**Building Committee Members Present:** Lance Horne, Kaity White, Mary Beattie, Bruce Melendy (via Zoom), Rob Balivet, Alison Despathy, Doug Pastula, Eric Hewitt, Stacy Andre

**Public Present:** Karena Shippee (via Zoom), GVCM (no name, via Zoom)

## **Agenda**

- 1. Call meeting to order:** Dave T. sat in as chair in Clayton's absence and called the meeting to order at 6:00pm
- 2. Additions/Changes to the Agenda - (Proposed additions or deletions/Possible agreement):**

None

- 3. Update on Deferred Maintenance Priority Items:**

- Molly shared that at the last regular board meeting, the board discussed ventilation and lighting, two of the [deferred maintenance priority items](#) that Facilities Director Shawn McNamara had presented to the Building Advisory Committee. The administration is working on cost information to share with the board at the next regular board meeting on June 6, 2023. Any relevant information shared with the board before the meeting will also be shared with the committee.

- 4. Discussion on Building Options for Space Needs**

- Melissa reviewed the list of project options for space that have been shared in meetings to date, and two options were added to the list: 1) waiting for the state to see if funding will be available, 2) doing nothing and repairing emergencies. Alison shared information from the state on a possible statewide bond structure modeled

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after Rhode Island, and she will send any relevant information to the board and committee.

#### Small Group Breakouts

Committee members broke out into three groups in the room and one group online via Zoom to discuss the following:

- Are all of the options viable and realistic? If not, which ones can be crossed off the list?
- Is more information needed on any of the options? If so, how do we gather that information?
- Prioritize Options: Each group identifies two options that address the need for space, one for the immediate need and one for a long-term plan.

#### Discussion Summary

Community Buildings: Some groups eliminated using community buildings as a viable option due to scheduling issues and the costs associated with having to adapt spaces to meet codes and requirements, as well as other barriers, including food service, transportation, and services students receive at school. The North Danville building, the Congregational Church, and the church in West Danville were mentioned specifically—discussion on the challenges at the North Danville building. Sarah will ask Bethany Hale to take a look at the North Danville building, as she used to work in preschool licensing.

Additional Structure On-Site: Discussion on an additional preschool or high school structure on-site. There was consensus on a permanent, not a temporary building.

- Preschool building pros: A preschool building could be close to the school, allowing for movement between the main building. Preschool has the greatest need for space, and there is a waitlist for next year.
- High school building pros: High schoolers could walk to a separate building, possibly by the soccer fields, whereas it's more challenging for preschoolers to walk outside. Some grades benefit by being together and learning from one another, preschool - 8, as an example. There was consensus that a high school building would benefit the high school and should be created in a way that is

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appealing and attractive and a draw for students to come to Danville, contributing to the programming. It would create a separation, “moving up,” from the younger grades, giving them their own space. A high school building could be more flexible in terms of the future.

Demolition and Rebuild: What are the costs of a demolition and rebuild of the 1937 and/or the 1957 buildings vs. the costs of renovating? Shawn stated that they are structurally stable, and the 1980s addition is the building in the worst condition.

Regional High School: There was a brief discussion on a regional high school, with a few groups crossing it off the list as an option and another identifying it as a viable long-term option. There are many factors and questions, including whether there is interest from Twinfield and Cabot, costs, location/transportation, and interest within the Danville community. Agreement that it is important to focus on what is in the best interest of students.

Tuitioning High School Students: Similar to the regional high school discussion, this was brought up as an option that might happen in the future, and a flexible structure could be used for a different purpose if it is no longer needed to support the high school at some point in time.

Questions:

- Could preschool go in the North Danville community building? Sarah will ask Bethany Hale to take a look at the North Danville building, as she used to work in preschool licensing.
- What are the minimum space needs for a separate high school building? Is four classrooms enough space? Sarah will talk with Dave and bring information to the next meeting.
- What is the cost difference between a separate high school building and a preschool building? Shawn will come up with a ballpark estimate for a four-classroom high school building.
- Demographic trends: Important for long-term planning and a master plan
- More information needed on a regional school: Are other schools interested? Would it save money? Where would it go? Would the community support it?

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- How much does it cost to have a relocatable structure, one that can be moved if needed

**5. Strategic Planning**

This was moved to the next meeting.

**6. Schedule of Ongoing Meetings / Next Meeting Date**

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 21, 2023, at 6:00pm.

**7. Public Input**

None

**8. Future Agenda Items:**

- Strategic Planning
- Review a ballpark cost estimate from Shawn on a separate high school structure with four classrooms

**9. Adjourn:**

MOTION: Melissa moved to adjourn at 8:02 pm, Tim seconded, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Molly Gleason, Clerk, May 18, 2023